

Good Morning Chairman McDonald, Chairman Lawlor, Members of the Judiciary Committee.

I'm Ray Hanley from Southbury and President of the High Rock Shooting Association and I'm here to voice opposition to Committee Bill 353 and comment on Committee Bill 358.

If passed, 353 would mandate to the hard pressed taxpayers of Connecticut to gamble on an unproven theory of linking used cartridge cases to a firearm that fires them by requiring the micro stamping of semi-automatic pistols.

This legislation was passed in California but hasn't been implemented yet so no data is available as to it's reliability.

Maryland and New York states have passed and implemented legislation similar to this called Ballistic Finger Printing.

In a report updated July 8, 2008, Maryland State Police recommended suspending the ballistic ID system. The report states that the 2.5 million spent on the system so far, be used on proven crime fighter techniques. The report further states the system has failed to provide any meaningful hits.

Colonial Thomas E. Hutching, Superintendent of the Maryland State Police further states, "The system really is not doing anything."

In New York State, its 7-year handgun fingerprint database has yet to lead to a criminal prosecution. Since March of 2001 ID information from more than 200,000 new handguns sold in New York have been entered into the database maintained by state police.

Cost estimated in New York for this program is about a million dollars a year.

In these hard economic times in our state, why should the taxpayers be mandated to finance a program that has no proven track record, has the potential of costing more workers the loss of their jobs and has an aura of “maybe someday” ring to it?

We don't need it and we can't afford it.